

A CENTRAL TRAIN ROBBED!

THE EXPRESS MESSENGER "HELD UP" IN WESTERN STYLE.

ONE MASKED ROBBER THRUSTS A REVOLVER IN THE MESSENGER'S FACE—THE BOOTY SECURED IS SMALL—ESCAPING IN THE DARKNESS.

C. H. VENNER & CO. SUSPEND.

THEY HOPE SOON TO GO ON AGAIN.

THE NEWS HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON THE STOCK MARKET—SKETCH OF THE FIRM.

Utica, N. Y., Sept. 30.—The special American Express train, No. 31, due here at 3:10 a. m. to-day, was robbed between here and Little Falls. The robber or robbers, for the messenger says there were two, brought the train to a standstill a mile east of this city by applying the air-brakes by means of the valve in the car, and then escaped in the darkness. The express agent in charge of the car was E. A. Moore, who lives at No. 178 Thirteenth, Buffalo. The robber who did the work was masked.

The story, as learned here to-day, is that Moore was in the center of the car, which was well filled with freight, when the robber suddenly appeared before him and thrust a revolver in his face. At the same instant he caught Moore's revolver from the case on top of the messenger's trunk or box, and then commanded the messenger to open the door of the safe, while a second robber covered Moore with a revolver through a hole in the car. There were four safe in the car, but Moore had piled freight on three of them, and only one was in sight. As the chief robber was looking over the packages in this he threw several of them to one side, as they contained jewelry, saying he wanted money. The authorities here think that not over \$1,000 was taken. One package of \$5,000 was secured by Moore as he opened the safe.

The robber entered the car by sawing a piece from the upper panel of the front door. The piece cut out was fifteen inches wide and seventeen inches long. It contained eight bullet holes. When the piece was nearly sawn he pushed it into the car, and then reached in and pulled a small box through the opening, upon which he stood to effect his entrance. The car was the last one on the train, and had two partitions across it. Moore was at work in the centre compartment.

After securing the packages the robber backed to the door, still keeping Moore covered with the revolver. When on the platform he reached down suddenly and cut the rubber hose connecting the air-brake coupling thus setting the brakes on the entire train. When the train started up enough for him to jump, he did so and both robbers disappeared. The stopping of the train alarmed the train-bands, and Moore called out to them that he had been "held up and robbed." He was not understood at first, and the trainmen supposed they had been daggared and began looking about for the cause. Moore was greatly frightened, but finally made the men understand the situation. One shot had been fired at him by the chief robber before he left the car.

Buffalo, Sept. 30.—As the train that was robbed ran into the Central Depot at 12:10 this forenoon, a reporter boarded the car and asked Mr. Underwood to explain the robbery. "Well, sir," said he, "I was never so surprised in my life. All we may say is, a work-a-parting packages, as usual, was taken. I heard a pistol-shot right in my ear. I jumped up, and right before me stood a masked burglar with the muzzle of his revolver in my face. He had secured an entrance into the car by breaking and sawing a hole through the front end. I did not hear him because of the rumbling of the train, or I would have been on guard, of course. But it was a complete surprise, and I was dismasted. He ascented some of the packages right before my eyes, holding his revolver in one hand and doing the work with the other. He seemed in a hurry, and soon jumped up, pulled the air-brake cord, jumped off the train, and was lost in the darkness quicker than it takes to tell it."

"How much money do you think he secured?"
I can't tell until we look over the bills and figure up at the office. My impression is that he did not get much. He overlooked a package containing \$6,000 in currency, but got considerable jewelry."

"Do you think there was more than one of the robbers?"

"Yes, sir, there were two. One kept his revolver pointed at me through the hole in the car."

"Have you got any idea where they got on the train?"

"It was probably at Albany. We stopped there, and they must have jumped on the platform of the car, and began work shortly afterward."

"Can you give a description of the robbers?"

"No, sir. The one in the car was masked and wore dark clothing. He was about five feet seven inches. I could judge, and that's all I can say about him."

"Do you think he was familiar with the amount of valuables usually carried on this train?"

"I cannot answer that."

"How long have you been in the employ of the American Express Company as agent?"

"About eleven years."

"You have an impression that the booty secured was not large?"

"Yes, sir. The robber was in too much of a hurry, fortunately, and overlooked several packages which I concealed hurriedly."

Moore is a man about thirty-three years of age, weighs 200 pounds, stands five feet nine inches. He is very nervous, but inclined a straightforward story. He bears a good reputation, and no blame is at present attached to him for the robbery. The culprits who did the work are believed to be old hands in the business, but for once they fooled themselves by being in too much of a hurry. This is partially accounted for from the fact that the train was within a mile of Utica when it jumped from the car and were lost in the darkness.

Moore formerly lived in Rochester and was an express messenger for some years on the Albany and Utica route. He was engaged on the Albany branch of the Central, and then had charge of the New York department of the express company in Syracuse about 1850. He was promoted to the run between Buffalo and New York on the fast express about two years ago. He has always had the confidence of his superiors and in every way deserved a favorable man-

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